

Now, more than at any time in my life, I have grave concern of the use of media to sway presidential campaigns. While Sinclair Broadcasting might have a right to an expression of free speech, I does not have rights beyond that. We, the American people, have chartered the FCC with maintaining that the airwaves are there for the good of America - not the good of a few greedy and manipulative corporations. What kind of country would this be if every citizen was required to incorporate just to have rights?

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.